



## **Just Waiting to Be Written/ 52 story ideas about the unique arts and cultural heritage of Door County Wisconsin**

The scenic beauty of the Door County Peninsula with its hundreds of miles of shoreline, dozens of parks, rural vistas and quaint villages, has been a magnet over the years to artists of all types. Performers, painters and potters are among those who find themselves renewed not only by the natural ambience but also by the artistic community that has taken root here.

Below are 52 story concepts — one for each week of the year — that illustrate the Door County Peninsula's unique culture-in-the-country atmosphere. Contact information and web sites have also been included for your convenience.

Accompanying images and additional information are available from Jon Jarosh, marketing director of the Door County Visitor Bureau, at (920) 743-4456, ext. 810 or [jon@doorcounty.com](mailto:jon@doorcounty.com).

### **Performing Arts:**

1) American Folklore Theatre features family-friendly original musicals that celebrate the heritage of Wisconsin. Summer performances are under the stars in Peninsula State Park, Fish Creek.

Contact: Kaye Christman or Doc Heide

Phone: (920) 854-6117

Web site: [www.folkloretheatre.com](http://www.folkloretheatre.com)

2) The Peninsula Players, America's oldest professional resident summer theater (since 1935), has played a part in the careers of many noted actors such as Harvey Corman and today features world-class talent such as artistic director Greg Vinkler, a multiple Jeffy winner and recently recognized as a leading Shakespearean actor. The curtain goes up after audiences applaud the setting sun.

Contact: Todd Schmidt

Phone: (920) 868-3287

Web site: [www.peninsulaplayers.com](http://www.peninsulaplayers.com)

3) Door Shakespeare's professional troupe brings the classics of The Bard to life in a beautiful garden setting that transcends time. From mid- July through late August at historic Bjorklunden on the shores of Baileys Harbor. Amazingly, even young children understand Shakespeare when it's presented well.

Contact: Jerry Gomez or Suzanne Graff

Phone: (920) 839-1500

Web site: [www.doorshakespeare.com](http://www.doorshakespeare.com)

4) Peninsula Music Festival. World-class musicians from America's leading orchestras perform under the direction of Victor Yampolski. Nine classical concerts are presented over three weeks in August at the Door Community Auditorium in Fish Creek. Musicians enjoy the bonus of a Door County vacation.

Contact: Sharon Grutzmacher  
Phone: (920) 854-4060  
Web site: [www.musicfestival.com](http://www.musicfestival.com)

5) Midsummers Music Festival. Popular chamber music series set in Door County's most picturesque outdoor and indoor settings from early June to early July. Performers include musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Pro Arte Quartet and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. The music is grand. The settings make it even more special.

Contact: Pam Johnson  
Phone: (920) 854-7088  
Web site: [www.midsummersmusic.com](http://www.midsummersmusic.com)

6) Birch Creek Music and Performance Center. More than 30 evening concerts by professionals and top students, late June to mid-August. Symphony, percussion & steel band and big band jazz performances held in an acoustically perfect barn on a historic farmstead near Egg Harbor.

Contact: Kay Wagner  
Phone: (920) 868-3763  
Web site: [www.birchcreek.org](http://www.birchcreek.org)

7) Door Community Auditorium. Intimate, state-of-the-art performing arts venue in Fish Creek offers year-round entertainment in music, dance and theater. Performances range from marquee names such as Willie Nelson to high-quality local and regional offerings. A truly versatile performance space that serves the needs of the entire community. Faith Hill one night, a high school play the next.

Contact: Patti Podgers  
Phone: (920) 868-2728  
Web site: [www.dcauditorium.org](http://www.dcauditorium.org)

8) Third Avenue Playhouse. A historic movie house in downtown Sturgeon Bay has taken on a new life as a performing arts space for community theater troupes and amateur and professional musicians. TAP is a major reason why this downtown has survived and flourished. Volunteers gave birth to it and volunteers keep it growing.

Contact: Judy Drew  
Phone: (920) 743-1760  
Web site: [www.ThirdAvenuePlayhouse.com](http://www.ThirdAvenuePlayhouse.com)

9) The Island Players. The small (646 residents) community on Washington Island hosts its very own community theater troupe, which performs at the Trueblood Performing Arts Center, a surprising jewel of performance space made possible by a very generous donation.

Contact: Joyce Morehouse

Phone: (920) 847-2215

Web site: [www.doorcountyarts.com/members.html#Anchor-46470](http://www.doorcountyarts.com/members.html#Anchor-46470)

10) The Steel Bridge SongFest. It started as a fund-raiser to help save a historic downtown bridge in Sturgeon Bay. It turned into a major annual music festival on the waterfront, headlined by singer/songwriter Jackson Browne, who donated his time and talent in 2005 to get it all going and comes back each year.

Contact: Christy Weber.

Phone: (920) 818-0081

Web site: [www.steelbridgesongfest.org](http://www.steelbridgesongfest.org)

11) Isadoora Theatre Company. Thought-provoking community theater that warms up the quiet winter season with three plays and a reputation for taking artistic risks.

Contact: Andrew Olson

Phone: (920) 493-3667

Web site: [www.isadoora.com](http://www.isadoora.com)

## **Visual Arts – Studios and Galleries**

12) The Jack Anderson Gallery. This Sister Bay gallery has built a strong reputation for landscapes and still life watercolors and oils by some of the Midwest's premier artists.

Contact: Jack and Sue Anderson

Phone: (920) 854-5161

Web site: [www.jackandersongallery.com](http://www.jackandersongallery.com)

13) Kari Anderson. One of Door County's most popular painters, she is especially known for her watercolor lighthouses and landscapes. Her work is available at multiple locations. She can be reached at her Egg Harbor home.

Contact: Kari Anderson

Phone: (920) 823-8121

Web site: [www.amogallery.com](http://www.amogallery.com)

14) Charles L. Peterson. His distinctive Memories Collection of paintings are instantly recognizable for the ghostly figures that are blended subtly into modern scenes.

Contact: Audrey M. Off

Phone: (920) 743-2259

Web site: [www.amogallery.com](http://www.amogallery.com)

15) Abe Cohn, a potter for more than 60 years, is considered the grandfather of the Door County Pottery Guild. He opened the first Door County pottery studio in 1956 and is still amazing visitors to their studio/gallery in Fish Creek. He and his wife, Ginka, are a fascinating pair of artists in their golden years but still going strong.

Contact: Abe and Ginka Cohn

Phone: (920) 868-3371

Web site: [www.PottersWheelGallery.com](http://www.PottersWheelGallery.com)

16) Martinez Studio. Wence Martinez, a Zapotec Indian weaver from Oaxaca, Mexico, and his wife, Sandra, who works in a variety of media, operate a studio in a beautiful stone fruit barn near Jacksonport. How they ended up in Door County in 1969 is a captivating tale.

Contact: Wence Martinez

Phone: (920) 823-2154

Web site: [www.martinezstudio.com](http://www.martinezstudio.com)

17) Photographer Len Villano brings a master's eye to the natural wonders of Door County, especially its wildlife. Villano has a truly national reputation for nature and landscape photography.

Contact: Len Villano

Phone: (920) 823-2588

Web site: [www.lenvillano.com/galleries.html](http://www.lenvillano.com/galleries.html)

18) Dovetail Gallery & Studio, housed in a dovetail log cabin, is the showcase for the work of artist Kathleen Beck, who is internationally known for her intricate carved and etched egg art designs and sculptures using goose, duck, swan, rhea, emu and ostrich eggs. Personalized eggs with names and dates are commissioned by customers to give as gifts.

Contact: Kathy Beck

Phone: (920) 868-3987

Web site: [www.dovetailgallery.com](http://www.dovetailgallery.com)

19) David Frykman Studio Gallery, located in a historic building in Ellison Bay, is the showcase for David's unique woodcarvings of whimsical characters. Resin reproductions by Coynes and Co. are available as collectables, but his original carvings at the gallery are one of a kind.

Contact: David Frykman

Phone: (920) 854-7351

Web site: [www.davidfrykmanoriginals.com](http://www.davidfrykmanoriginals.com)

20) Popelka Trenchard Glass Studio & Gallery, owned by the husband and wife team of Jeremy Popelka and Stephanie Trenchard, showcases their internationally acclaimed work in cast glass and blown glass. They also offer classes.

Contact: Jeremy Popelka or Stephanie Trenchard

Phone: (920) 743-7287

Web site: [www.popelkaglass.com](http://www.popelkaglass.com)

21) Don Thompson exemplifies the modern Renaissance man. A gifted artist in stained glass, he also is an accomplished professional musician and, with his wife, Jean, owner of Door County Bakery, known for its European-style breads.

Contact: Don Thompson

Phone: (920) 854-1137

Web site: [www.doorcountybakery.com](http://www.doorcountybakery.com)

22) Edgewood Orchard Gallery, one of the Midwest's most respected art galleries, features the work of more than 100 artists in a wide range of media. Housed in a carefully restored stone fruit barn built in 1918 and located on an 80-acre orchard near Fish Creek, the gallery is itself a work of art.

Contact: Nell Emerson Jarosh

Phone: (920) 868-3579

Web site: [www.edgewoodorchard.com](http://www.edgewoodorchard.com)

23) Francis Hardy Center for the Arts operates the Dockside Gallery, which is located in a national historic landmark building on a pier overlooking Ephraim's Eagle Harbor. The history of this gallery building goes back to the beginning of Door County's evolution as a 19<sup>th</sup> century tourism destination and helps explain the cultural heritage of the Peninsula.

Contact: Jan Comstock

Phone: (920) 854-5535

Web site: [www.thehardy.org](http://www.thehardy.org)

24) The Fairfield Center for Contemporary Art, considered a gem in Door County, exhibits work by local, national and international artists in a variety of media from photography to sculpture. It is best known for its permanent collection of prints and maquettes by British artist Henry Moore.

Contact: Elizabeth Meissner

Phone: (920) 746-0001

Web site: [www.fairfieldcenter.org](http://www.fairfieldcenter.org)

25) The Gift to Be Simple, an eclectic studio/gallery located in an historic 137-year-old farmstead, is known for the exquisite wearable art of Carol Hoen and the photography and homemade bread of her husband, Bill.

Contact: Carol and Bill Hoehn

Phone: (920) 839-2252

Web site: [www.gifttobesimple.com](http://www.gifttobesimple.com)

26) Pipka's Gallery is the showcase studio of Slovakian-born Pipka, a nationally recognized artist known primarily for her limited edition Christmas collectibles, especially her Old World Santas. Her life journey from Europe to Door County is a good tale.

Contact: Pipka Ulviden

Phone: (920) 854-4392

Web site: [www.pipkasgallery.com](http://www.pipkasgallery.com)

## Personal Enrichment

27) Peninsula Arts School in Fish Creek traces its roots to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when wealthy summer visitors from Chicago hired teachers from the Chicago Art Institute to teach classes to their children and wives. Today, the school offers one-day workshops and multiple-day classes in painting, pottery, jewelry making, photography and more with a faculty of more than 100 artists and art educators.

Contact: Kathy Hoke Gonzalez

Phone: (920) 868-3445

Web site: [www.peninsulaartschool.com](http://www.peninsulaartschool.com)

28) The Clearing was founded by legendary Danish landscape architect Jens Jenson in 1935 as a folk school retreat where people could reflect and learn while reconnecting themselves with the natural world. In an idyllic setting of 130 forested acres, The Clearing hosts workshops and week-long classes in topics as varied as philosophy, birding, weaving, painting and poetry.

Contact: Michael Schneider

Phone: (920) 854-4088

Web site: [www.theclearing.org](http://www.theclearing.org)

29) Hands On Arts Studio, located in a large art barn in rural Fish Creek, lets people of all ages and skill levels sample their creativity in a wide variety of mediums with assistance from trained art staff. Decorate a T-shirt, throw a pot, paint ceramic figures or decorate a mirror with colorful tiles. Friday night is Adult Night with snacks and bring-your-own beverages.

Contact: Cy Turnblad

Phone: (920) 868-9311

Web site: [www.handsonartstudio.com](http://www.handsonartstudio.com)

30) Sievers School of Fiber Arts, located in historic buildings on Washington Island, offers top experts as teachers in weaving, basketry, quilting, knitting, spinning, dyeing and much more. Workshops and on-campus classes available spring through fall for those who want to learn or improve their skills.

Contact: Ann Young

Phone: (920) 847-2264

Web site: [www.sieversschool.com](http://www.sieversschool.com).

31) Door County Living Classrooms offers small-group eco-tours of the woods and waters of Door County. The focus is on educational and personalized outdoor experiences that reinforce the principles of sustainable tourism.

Contact: Brian and Jamie Forest

Phone: (920) 493-3000

Web site: [www.doorcountylivingclassrooms.com](http://www.doorcountylivingclassrooms.com)

32) The Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor, which encompasses more than 1,400 acres of environmentally sensitive forests and wetlands, offers naturalist-guided educational explorations year round.

Contact: Steven Leonard

Phone: (920) 839-2802

Web site: [www.theridges.org](http://www.theridges.org)

## **Museums/Historic Sites**

33) Washington Island Farm Museum, focusing on Island life between 1870 and 1940, features authentic buildings, machinery and artifacts as well as educational programs, lectures and events.

Contact: Carol Stayton, Washington Island Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (920) 847-2179

Web site: [www.washingtonisland.com/washingtonislandfarmmuseum/](http://www.washingtonisland.com/washingtonislandfarmmuseum/)

34) Jacobsen Museum, Washington Island, is located on Little Lake and features quirky artifacts of Island life as well as Jens Jacobsen's restored cabin.

Contact: Carol Stayton, Washington Island Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (920) 847-2179

Web site: [www.washingtonisland.com/](http://www.washingtonisland.com/)

35) Door County Maritime Museum, Sturgeon Bay, features interactive and informative exhibits that trace the rich maritime heritage of Door County from dugout canoes and schooners to navy vessels and commercial tugs. Pilot the Great Lakes ore carrier Elba from its restored pilothouse. Check out the Sturgeon Bay shoreline through a real periscope.

Contact: Brian Kelsey

Phone: (920) 743-5958

Web site: [www.dcm.org](http://www.dcm.org)

36) The Stavkirke Chapel on Washington Island is a modern replica of the traditional Scandinavian “church of staves.” It was hand crafted by islanders and is a popular location for weddings.

Contact: Carol Stayton, Washington Island Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (920) 847-2179

Web site: [www.washingtonisland.com/](http://www.washingtonisland.com/)

37) The Noble House, Fish Creek’s oldest unchanged residence, was built in 1874 by Alexander Noble, who was town chairman, blacksmith and postmaster. It underwent extensive restoration in 1996, and was accepted on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. Seasonally open for docent-guided tours.

Contact: Fish Creek Information Center

Phone: (920) 868-2091

Web site: [www.fishcreek.info](http://www.fishcreek.info)

38) The Farm, Sturgeon Bay, offers a chance to experience life in historic rural Wisconsin with farm animals, crops and authentic buildings and machinery. Feed the goats and pigs, watch chicks hatch, pet a horse.

Contact: David Tanck

Phone: (920)743-6666

Web site: <http://www.TheFarmInDoorCounty.com>

39) Old Anderson House Museum, Sister Bay, features authentically restored 1875 farm house, buildings and log cabins. Heritage programs offered every Saturday in season.

Contact: Roberta Kutlik

Phone: (920) 854-9242

40) Door County Maritime Trail provides divers and landlubbers a chance to experience the Peninsula's remarkable maritime heritage. The hundreds of shipwrecks that lie in the waters surrounding Door County have attracted divers for years, preserved by the cold fresh water. The Maritime Trail includes markers for divers as well as land-based informational signage on the wrecks.

Contact: Jim Robinson

Phone: (920) 854-2606

Web site: [www.maritimetrails.org](http://www.maritimetrails.org)

41) Door County Maritime Museum, Gills Rock branch, features exhibits of Door County’s ongoing commercial fishing industry, including the 1917 ship “Berylune” and the 1930 fishing tug “Hope.” Open seasonally.

Contact: Brian Kelsey, DCMM or Charlie Henriksen, Commercial Fisherman

Phone: (920) 743-5958 for DCMM; (920) 839-2103 for Mr. Henriksen

Web site: [www.dcm.org](http://www.dcm.org)

42) Boynton Chapel at Bjorklunden in Baileys Harbor, handcrafted by Winifred and Donald Boynton, was built in the early 1940s in the traditional Scandinavian stavkirke style. It contains 41 hand-painted frescoes and numerous exceptionally fine carved-wood furnishings.

Contact: Mark Breseman

Phone: (920) 839-2216

Web site: <http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/bjork/chapel.shtml>

## **Lighthouses**

Ten historical lighthouses dot the 300-plus miles of Door County shoreline. Each of the 10 lighthouses has its own fascinating history and unique story possibilities. Some examples:

43) Cana Island, Baileys Harbor, one of the most painted and photographed lighthouses in the United States, has wrap-around steel plates that give it a distinctive look.

44) Pottawatomie, located on Rock Island State Park, is the oldest on Lake Michigan and has been completely refurbished over the last several years. It also houses volunteer docents from May – October.

45) Eagle Bluff, located in Peninsula State Park, has docents who keep the flame alive with guided tours and tales of the last keepers' family.

46) Pilot Island, located in Death's Door, is experiencing efforts to save a badly deteriorating structure. Efforts to save the lighthouse are drawing support from lighthouse aficionados across the country.

47) Sherwood Point, Sturgeon Bay, is still available to military personnel. Minnie's ghost — a friendly one — is said to roam the keeper's house.

48) Canal Station, Sturgeon Bay, an active Coast Guard station that is still saving lives today. The uniforms and technologies are different but the tradition lives on.

49) Range Lights, Baileys Harbor, preserves an old strategy for guiding ships to safety. A lamp in the upper window of the keeper's house, when lined up with a lamp in a shoreline tower, provided a visual line for the ships to follow into harbor.

Lighthouse Contact: Brian Kelsey

Phone: (920) 743-5958

Web site: [www.dcm.org](http://www.dcm.org)

## Culinary Culture

50) Door County offers three well-established and extremely popular cooking schools. Visitors love to spend part of their vacation (or all of it) improving their culinary skills.

The Washington Hotel, Washington Island

Contact: Chef Leah Caplan

Phone: (920) 847-2169

Web site: [www.thewashingtonhotel.com](http://www.thewashingtonhotel.com)

The Savory Spoon, Ellison Bay

Contact: Chef Janice Thomas

Phone: (920) 854-6600

Web site: [www.savoryspoon.com](http://www.savoryspoon.com)

The Inn at Kristofer's, Sister Bay

Contact: Chef Terri Milligan

Phone: (920) 854-9419

Web site: [www.innatkristofers.com](http://www.innatkristofers.com)

51) Cherries & Grapes. Long known for its Montmorency cherries, Door County's climate and soil have proven themselves hospitable to grapes, as well. Now the county has five wineries and vineyards with both grapes taking their place alongside the familiar cherry wines.

Contact: Dean Volenberg, county agricultural agent

Phone: (920) 746-2260

Web site: [www.doorcounty.com/do/wineries-breweries.aspx](http://www.doorcounty.com/do/wineries-breweries.aspx)

52) The Door County Fish Boil has its roots in the days when large groups of hungry fishermen needed to be fed. Today, the Door County Fish Boil with its fiery boil-over and tender locally caught whitefish is served at a dozen Door County restaurants. The Viking Restaurant & Grill in Ellison Bay lays claim to have rekindled the tradition.

Contact: Dan Peterson

Phone: (920) 854-2998

Web site: [www.thevikinggrill.com](http://www.thevikinggrill.com)

Commercial Fisherman: Charlie Henriksen

Phone: (920) 839-2103

##